

Gore Subcommittee

U.S. Won't Brief Senate on SALT

By Warren Unna

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The Nixon administration yesterday backed out of giving the Senate disarmament subcommittee an advance briefing on the forthcoming U.S.-Soviet disarmament talks in Helsinki, and Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), subcommittee chairman, didn't like it.

"The reason for the prohibition upon the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency's freedom to meet and brief . . . is beyond my understanding," Gore said in a written statement he personally delivered to the Senate press gallery.

The subcommittee had made a tentative arrangement with ACDA officials Tuesday morning for the usual Senate pre-conference executive session briefing.

The assumption was that the senators, who eventually would have to approve any disarmament treaty, should be given some confidential guidance by Gerard Smith. Smith is ACDA director and the chief U.S. negotiator at the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT) talks which are set to begin in Helsinki Monday.

But when Smith phoned the

White House for clearance, he was instructed to tell the Gore subcommittee that all requests for briefings must now be referred either to Henry Kissinger, the President's assistant for national security affairs, or to the White House's congressional liaison office.

had been lined up for a 4 p.m. briefing yesterday had to be called off. And Smith, along with other top ACDA officials, are scheduled to leave early today for Brussels.

There they are authorized to give a briefing to the NATO Council before flying on to Helsinki.

White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler told reporters he had "no response" to Gore's statement about being left out.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers earlier had indicated to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Gore, as disarmament subcommittee chairman, would be accorded the usual courtesy of being included in the U.S. delegation. An invitation has yet to be tendered.